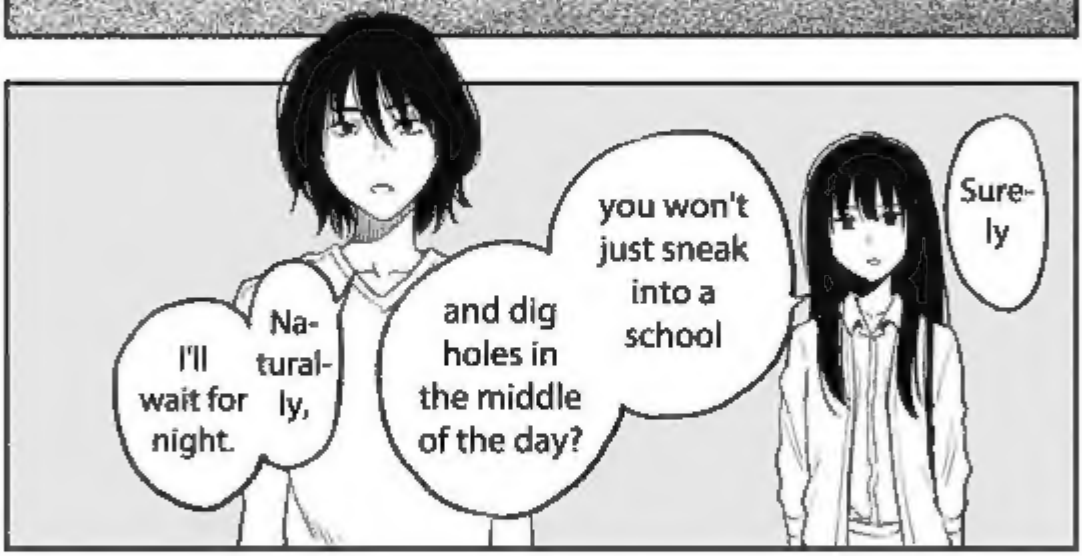
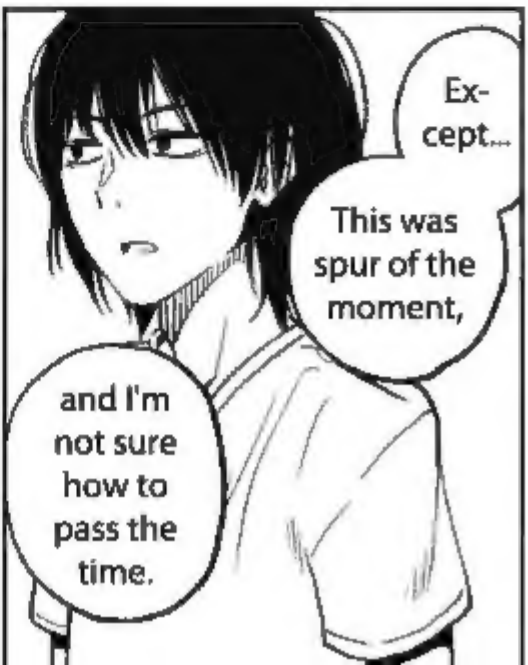
How do you plan to spend today?

Time capsule raiding.


Sure-ly
you won't just sneak into a school
and dig holes in the middle of the day?
Na-tural-ly, I'll wait for night.

Perhaps you might tour some places from your past?


Ex-cept...
This was spur of the moment,
and I'm not sure how to pass the time.

寿命を買い取ってもらった。一年につき、一万円で。

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.

Chapter 5

Original: Sugaru Miaki Manga: Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

...Now then.
Let's compare answers.
...Be quiet.
It would seem you've just now come to hate Mr. Naruse a bit.
But in truth, Mr. Naruse too
is not as fond of you as you may believe.
Originally, you would have met Mr. Naruse two years from now, in a way similar to today.
And a minor thing would lead to a dispute, ending with the two of you angrily parting.

Sure.
Coffee for me.
I'll get right on it.
Ex-cuse me.
Are you ready to order?
You okay not ordering anything?
What, is that a problem?
You should refrain from talking to me when in public.
... Um.

...You should cut it off soon before it reaches that point.
Shut up...
Nothing good will come of placing your hopes in this man.
You... all of you...
Shut UP!

This guy who's coming, Naruse...
He's a friend from high school.
IN
旧友を呼びだしたクスノキだが…？

He was popular,
I was an outcast.
Totally opposite stand-ings,
but we were similar in an odd way.

When we were together,
weirdly,
we could laugh off any and all bad things.
So I was thinking
I'd like to have a carefree chat with him again.
... I see.

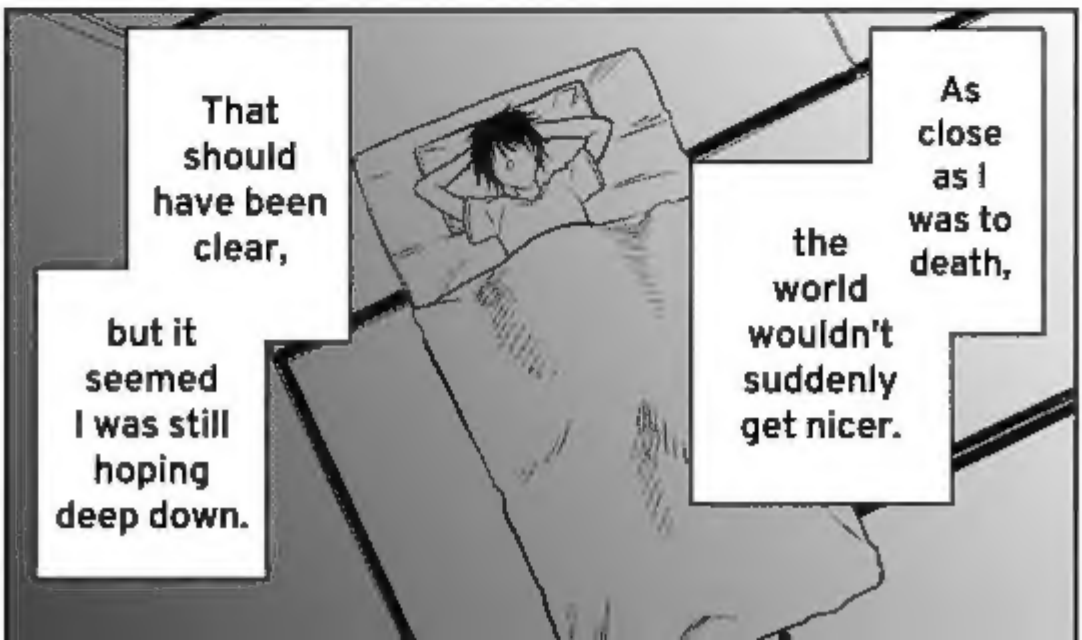
That's the one thing you can't laugh at.
Hey.
Naru-se.

it's something that's okay to laugh at.
that abso-lutely doesn't mean
But even so,
True, I gave up on it.

And I thou-ght you, at least, would have understood that.

...I get lonely sometimes, like anybody else.
...I see.
I was unsure why you would say something like that,
I mean.
Sorry.
I just found it a bit odd.

Looks like I need to revise my view of things.


That should have been clear,
but it seemed I was still hoping deep down.
As close as I was to death,
the world wouldn't suddenly get nicer.

Aren't you
invisible to everyone but me?

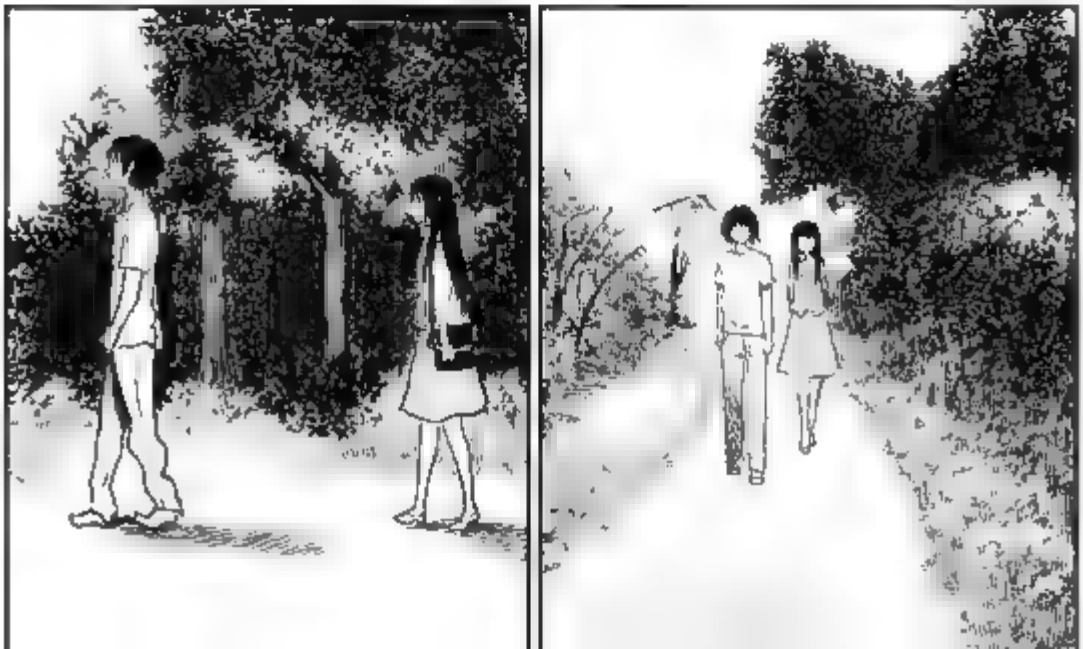
Yes.
I'm only seen by those I observe.
Although there are exceptions...

Essentially, yes.
Always?

Is something the matter?
Nope, nothing.
It's just,
if nobody can see you,
I wondered why you'd fuss over your appearance.

Even if you had no plans to meet anyone, you would still shower, wouldn't you?
...
I do it for myself.

I was glad I could get back at her.
But since it was Miyagi,
If it were any other girl, I'd have rushed to apologize.
It seemed Miyagi really took offense at that remark.

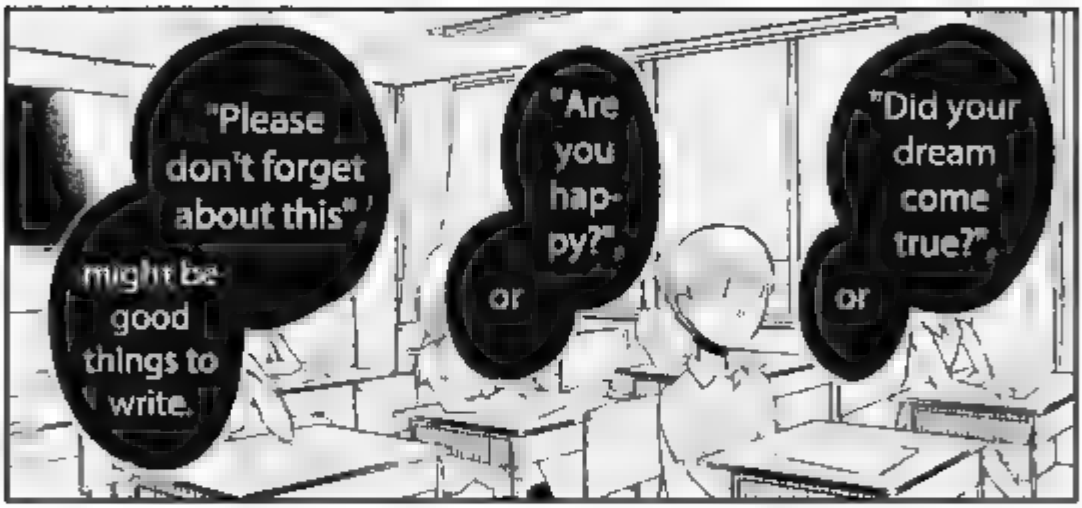


By the way, Kusunoki.
I'd say I was having fun.
Until *that* came out of his mouth,

U- Uh...
Do you still draw at all?

Thought so.
...Nah, I haven't done any drawing ever since I got to college.

I want you to write your letter
未来の自分へ
To your Future Self
to yourself, ten years from now.


"Did your dream come true?"
or
"Are you happy?"
or
"Please don't forget about this"
might be good things to write.

Also, at the end of the letter,
please write
the name of the person who's your best friend now.

With the exception of Ms. Himeno, I assume?
I don't have much of a good past in this town
Places from my past, huh...
Is that so. I'll be more cautious henceforth
I especially don't want to hear it out of your mouth.
Don't bring up her name so lightly.
Gonna be another scorcher

I had another objective.
To tell the truth,

would be misinterpreted by Naruse.
her watching me with an observing eye,
I hoped that the relationship between me and Miyagi,

Hey, miss observer.
I've got a request...
It was a pathetic hope.
But just once before I died,
I wanted to taste the feeling of being a pretty girl's boyfriend.

When you're done with that observation log or whatever, you wanna drink?
Hey, I really am sorry.
It's fine. Because it didn't hit.
Unfortunately I am not.

you want to drink with me?
Are you saying that ...

You should've just said that first then.
Well, apologies, but I can't. I'm on the job.
I see.
Well, yeah. I'm lonely.

What is this...?
A so-called "secret base"

So, your request was?
...For-get it.
eee.
Ah...
May be I won't meet with Narase after a.
Wel-come!

...I believe
I *did* explain this to you at the start, but...
Well, you see,
the presence of us observers
cannot be sensed by anyone except for those we observe.

Any sensation I give to a person
is treated as if it didn't happen.

Like so.
tug

The point being, Mr. Kusunoki,
that you currently appear
as if you are talking to air

I decided to write a will.
...
cicadas
So I tried taking about an hour
to write a letter to Himeno.
I immediately thought of my childhood friend, Himeno.
When I closed my eyes to think about it,
What did I want to impart, and to who?

*SHAT-
TER*
S-
Sir?!

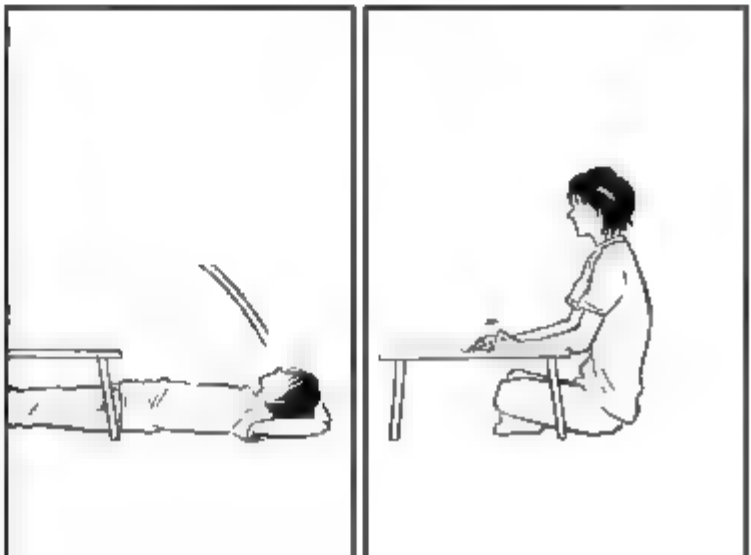
If you were still drawing,
I dunno what I would've done.

That
put an end to it.

I don't know what you think of me by now, but I've kept loving you since that day ten years ago.
I survived until twenty because of my memories from when I was with you, and I won't survive beyond twenty because I can't stand a world without you.
Now that I'm about to die, I've finally realized that. In a way, I've already been dead for a long time. Ever since the day we went our separate ways.
Goodbye. I'm praying ten-year-old me survives inside you for a little longer.

To summarize what I ended up with:

When was the last time I wrote a letter?



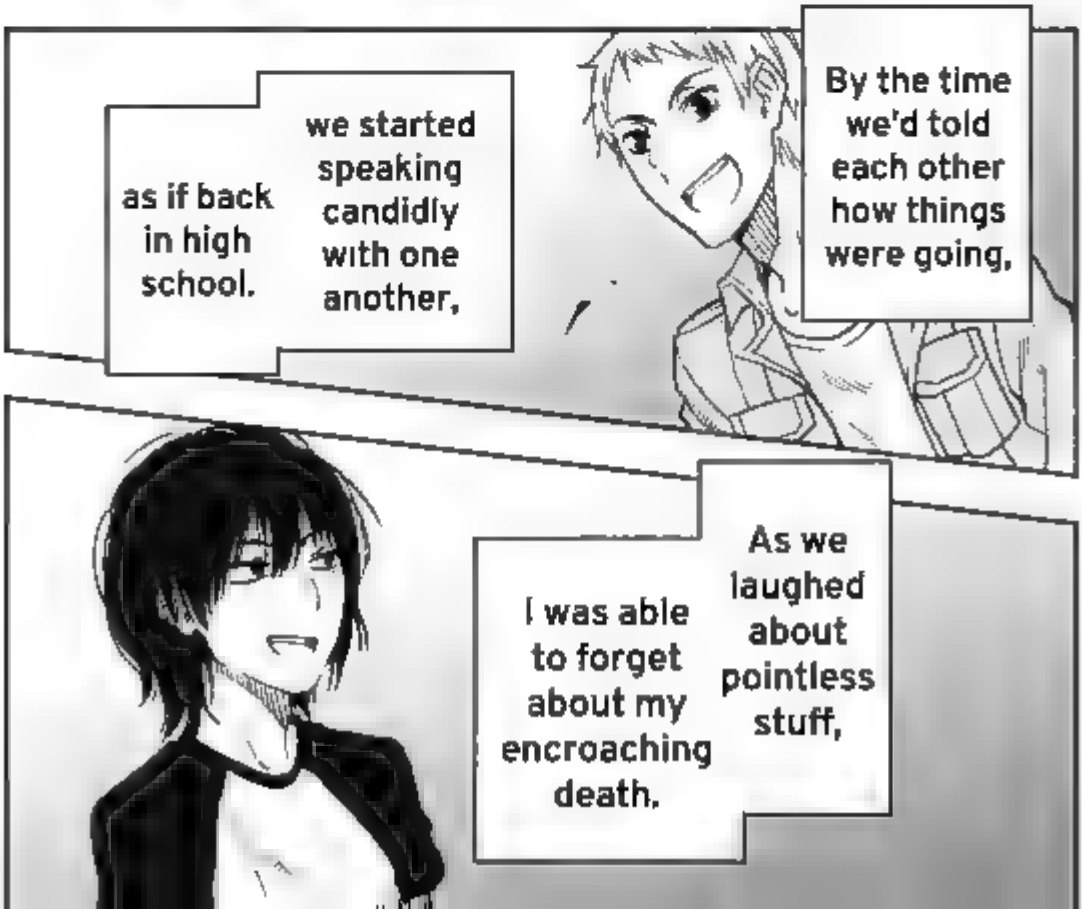
Per-
haps
I didn't
really care
for Naruse
the person,
but via his
approval
of my
thoughts,
I hoped
I could
love myself.

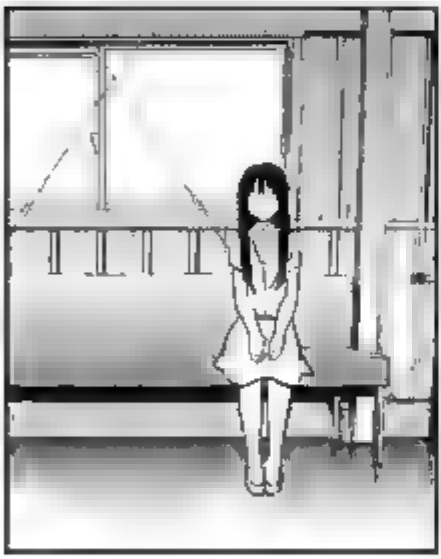
And while
Naruse
had
changed,
I never
did.
Maybe
it was
Naruse
who was
in the
right.

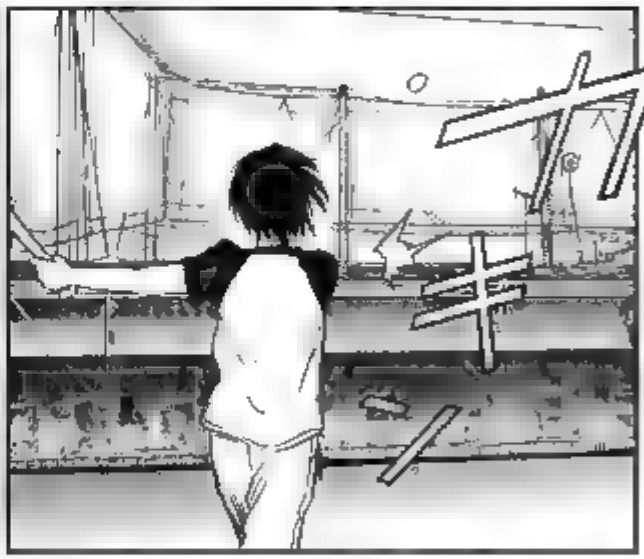
Hey.
Miss
obser-
ver
I'm
sorry
about
what
I did back
there.
You're
not
hurt?

Hey!
Kusu-noki!
Long time no see.
You been doing good?
Yeah.
Pretty good.

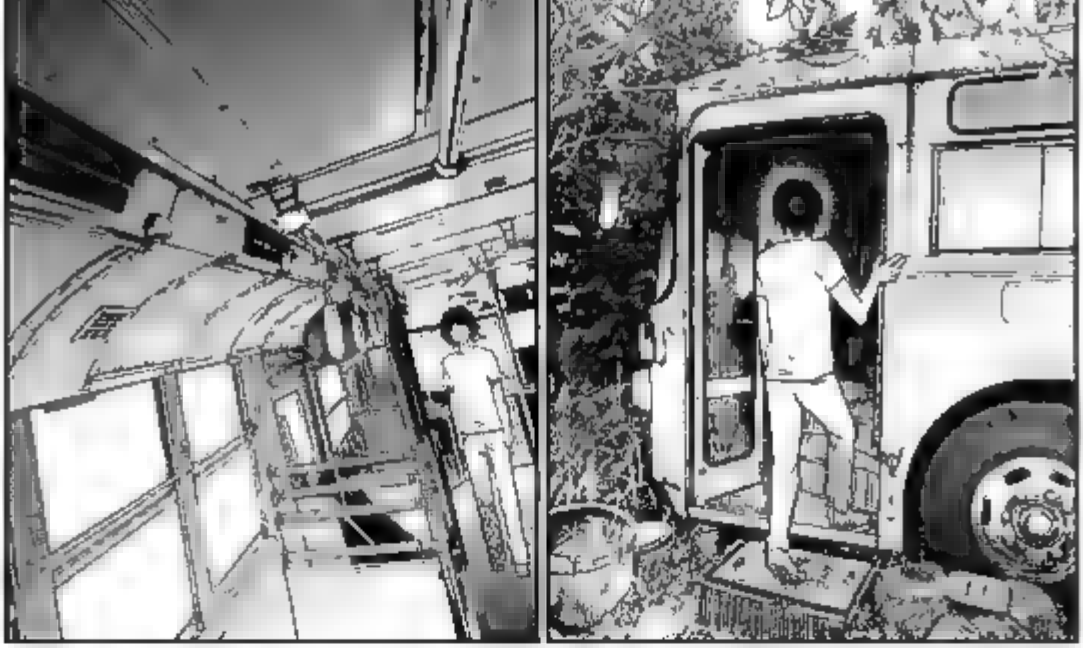
Oh, hot coffee for me!
C'mon, man!
We should keep in touch more!

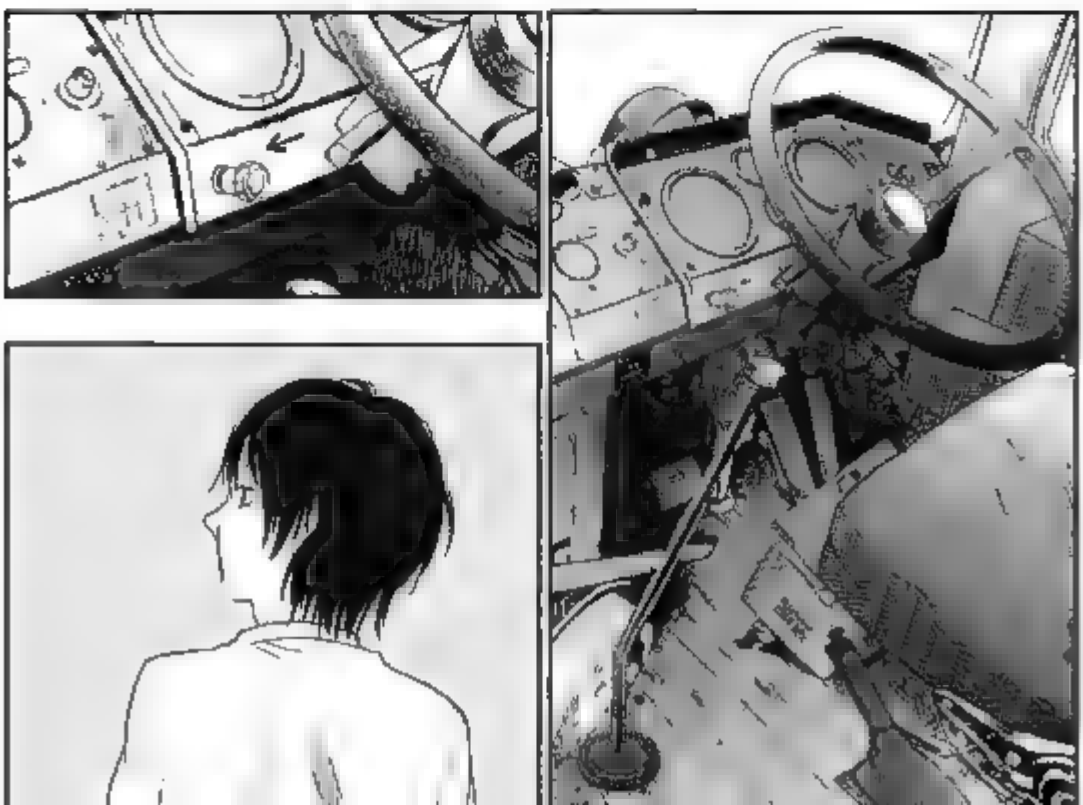

By the time we'd told each other how things were going,
we started speaking candidly with one another,
as if back in high school.
As we laughed about pointless stuff,
I was able to forget about my encroaching death.



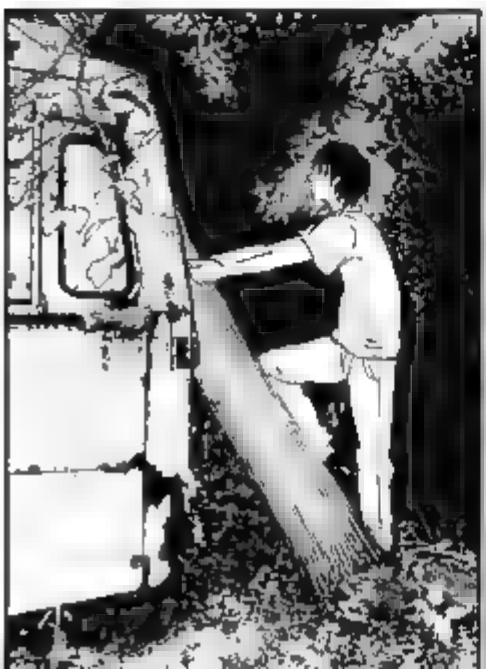


I didn't feel any regret
for leaving Naruse like that.





Kusunoki
Himeno



...It's not here!
Maybe it was dug up already...

!

clank

...
There we go.
!

It was
the time capsule buried ten years ago.